

1 Introduced by Committee on Commerce and Economic Development

2 Date:

3 Subject: Commerce and trade; economic development

4 Statement of purpose of bill as introduced: This bill proposes to provide

5 additional CARES Act relief to Vermont businesses that have suffered

6 economic harm due to the COVID-19 public health emergency.

7 An act relating to providing additional COVID-19 relief

8 It is hereby enacted by the General Assembly of the State of Vermont:

9 Sec. 1. 2020 Acts and Resolves No. 137, Sec. 6 is amended to read:

10 Sec. 6. COVID-19; ECONOMIC SUPPORT FOR BUSINESSES

11 AND INDIVIDUALS

12 (a) Appropriations; grants. The following amounts are appropriated from

13 the Coronavirus Relief Fund to the named recipients to provide grants to

14 businesses that have suffered economic harm due to the COVID-19 public

15 health emergency and economic crisis.

16 (1) ~~\$82,000,000.00 for additional emergency economic recovery grants~~

17 ~~pursuant to 2020 Acts and Resolves No. 115 (S.350), Secs. 2-3~~

18 \$175,000,000.00 for grants to businesses that meet the eligibility criteria in

19 subsection (c) of this section as follows:

1 (B) The business is either open at the time of application or is closed
2 due to the COVID-19 public health emergency but has a good-faith plan for
3 reopening.

4 (C) The business demonstrates need based on economic loss due to
5 the COVID-19 public health emergency from March 1, 2020 to December 1,
6 2020.

7 (2)(A) The Agency shall establish standards for determining the amount
8 of grant awards, provided that a business may not receive more than
9 \$300,000.00 in grant awards pursuant to 2020 Acts and Resolves No. 115 and
10 this act.

11 (B) Notwithstanding subdivision (2)(A) of this subsection, upon the
12 Agency’s request and demonstration of need, the Joint Fiscal Committee may
13 approve additional grant funding to a business in excess of the maximum grant
14 amount.

15 (3) The Agency shall consider whether and by how much grant awards
16 should be adjusted based on whether an applicant has received financial
17 assistance from other sources.

18 (4) The Agency shall adopt and publish guidelines governing the
19 implementation of this section and may coordinate with local, regional, and
20 State economic development partners to administer grants pursuant to this
21 section.

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(e) Prohibition on multiple sources of funding.

(1) A business may not receive a grant of Coronavirus Relief Fund monies from more than one source, ~~except that a business in the dairy sector may apply for a grant under subdivision (a)(2)(B) of this section, provided that the award is not~~ for the same purpose covered under other assistance from the Fund.

* * *

(g) Emergency economic recovery grant funds; transfer. If any funds appropriated to Agency of Commerce and Community Development and the Department of Taxes in 2020 Acts and Resolves No. 115 (S.350) remain both unencumbered and unspent as of August 1, 2020, the Agency and Department shall combine and administer those funds with the amounts made available to them in this section, subject to the standards and criteria established in this section.

Sec. 2. 2020 Acts and Resolves No. 137, Sec. 1(a) is amended to read:

(a) The purpose of this act is to appropriate ~~\$213,200,000.00~~ monies from the Coronavirus Relief Fund to cover necessary broadband connectivity, information technology, housing, and economic relief expenses incurred due to, or as a result of, the COVID-19 public health emergency.

Sec. 3. RECREATION SAFETY GRANTS; APPROPRIATION

1 The amount of \$5,000,000.00 is appropriated from the Coronavirus Relief
2 Fund to the Agency of Commerce and Community Development for grants to
3 Vermont ski area businesses to make necessary physical improvements to their
4 facilities in order to mitigate public health and safety risks to the public due to
5 the COVID-19 public health emergency.

6 Sec. 4. RESTART VERMONT MARKETING PROGRAM

7 The amount of \$4,000,000.00 is appropriated from the Coronavirus Relief
8 Fund to the Department of Tourism and Marketing for the Restart Vermont
9 Marketing Program to publicize the resumption of activities and steps taken to
10 ensure a safe experience.

11 Sec. 5. WORKFORCE TRAINING

12 (a) Appropriation. The amount of \$3,000,000.00 is appropriated
13 from the Coronavirus Relief Fund to the Vermont State Colleges, to
14 be divided between the Community College of Vermont and the
15 Vermont Technical Center based on enrollment, to serve Vermonters
16 who have been impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic through layoffs,
17 furloughs, reduced hours, or due to being employed in an industry that
18 has been severely affected.

19 (b) CCV and VTC shall use the funds awarded pursuant to this
20 section to:

1 (1) offer courses and workshops to upskill affected Vermonters
2 in their current industry or reskill Vermonters who desire a change in
3 their career path for more economic stability, which may include
4 training for Vermonters to transition to the childcare sector and
5 business technical assistance for small businesses; and

6 (2) to provide for necessary school supplies, wrap-around
7 services, marketing of the program, and support staff.

8 Sec. 6. EFFECTIVE DATE

9 This act shall take effect on passage.